



News Release

City of Long Beach
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject : City of Long Beach Poised to Receive First Allotment of Federal Stimulus Bill Funding

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The City of Long Beach's first allotment of Stimulus Bill funding will go before the City Council for approval on Tuesday, April 21.

The \$3.8 million in grant monies from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) would fund a City Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department) program to eliminate home health hazards, including lead-based paint and asthma and allergy triggers.

The City can begin spending the money as soon as the Council gives its approval. This program is expected to create at least four Program Coordinator jobs and numerous construction and support positions in the community.

"We're working hard to secure every dollar that we can for the City of Long Beach," Mayor Bob Foster said. "This award makes us one of the first cities to receive and spend stimulus dollars."

Long Beach was one of only five entities in California to receive the Lead Based Paint award, and one of only three California entities to receive the Healthy Homes grant. Long Beach was selected as the City had applied for these funds last year, but funds were not available at that time.

The City of Long Beach expects to receive \$53 million in formula-based funding from the Stimulus Bill. These are funds that are distributed to local governments through existing federal formulas. In addition, the City of Long Beach is applying for \$552 million in Stimulus Bill funding that will be awarded on a competitive basis.

"The City of Long Beach has a large number of pre-1950's homes, which may harbor health risks such as lead-based paint, pest infestation and mold," said Dr. Helene Calvet, City Health Officer. "These HUD programs assist in identifying public health risks in the home and removing or controlling them before they cause health affects to Long Beach residents."

The Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program (\$2.9 million) will help protect children and their families by rehabilitating more than 300 units of privately owned and low-income housing.

The Healthy Homes Demonstration (HHD) Program (\$874,992) offers a comprehensive delivery of interventions intended to improve the health of children with asthma, reduce housing-related environmental hazards contributing to asthma and allergies and reduce safety hazards contributing to unintentional injuries.

For more information about eliminating home health hazards, contact Judeth Luong, Healthy Homes Project Coordinator, at judeth_luong@longbeach.gov or 562.570.4104.

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